

SCENIC STATE PARK

FACILITIES AND FEATURES

- 106 modern campsites – 20 with electric hook ups.
- Large picnic grounds among old, giant pines.
- Sandy swimming beach.
- Boat and canoe rental.
- Fishing for walleye, northern, and panfish.
- 10 miles of hiking trails.
- 5 miles of interpretive trails.
- 5 miles of cross-country skiing trails.
- 10 miles of snowmobiling trails.
- 7 backpacking and canoe-in sites.
- Sewage dump station.
- Guest house: This older split-level house is available for rent year-round. It has 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, and a fully-equipped kitchen.
- CCC log cabin: Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, this restored cabin is available for rent from April 15 – October 31. It has one small bedroom and sleeps up to 4 people. Toilet facilities are located nearby.
- Rustic group camp.

VISITOR FAVORITES

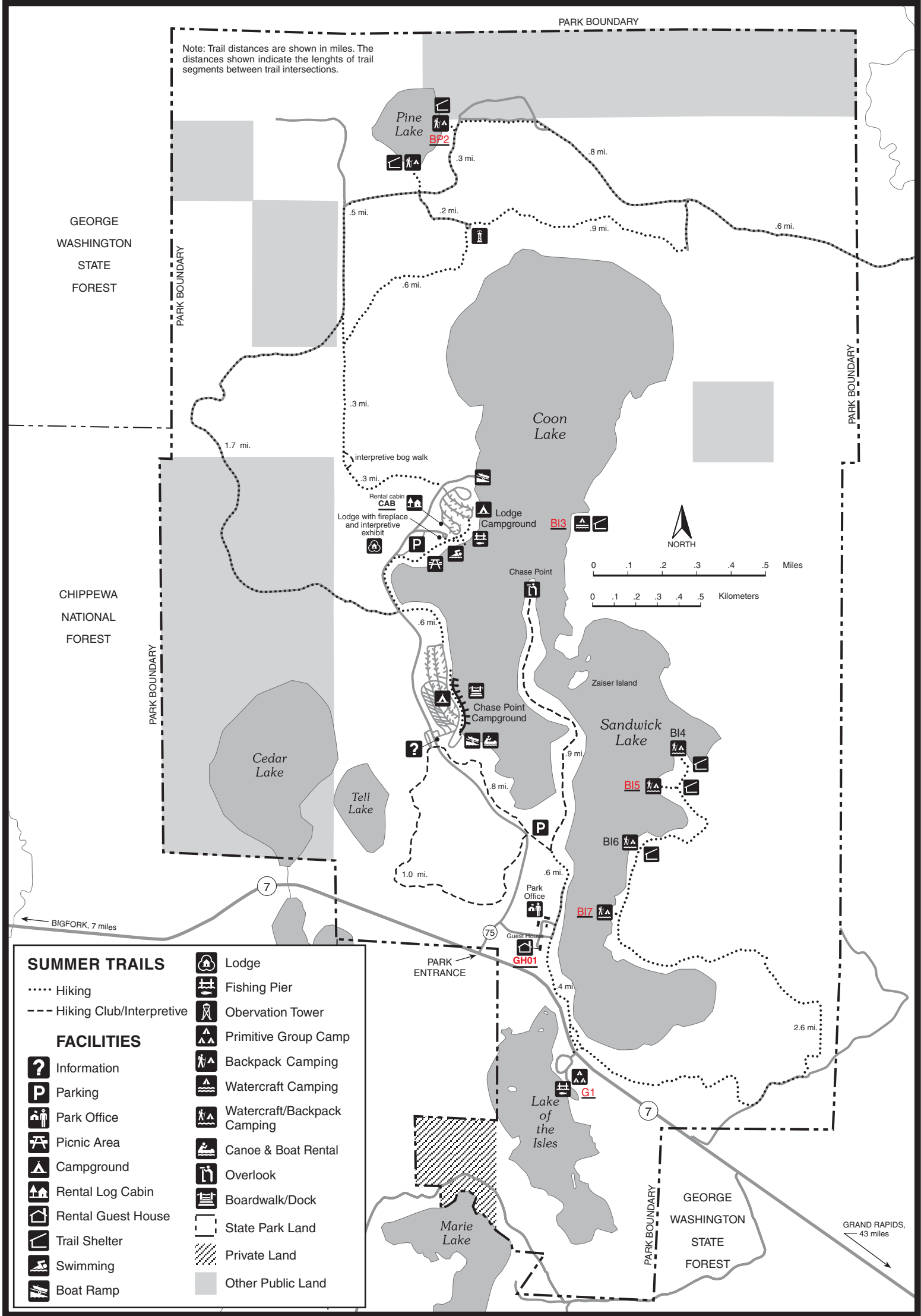
- Camping.
- Fishing in three lakes.
- Chase Point Trail.
- Coon Lake swimming beach.
- Forestry tower.
- Hiking.
- Fishing pier.

LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION ?

The DNR has mapped the state showing federal, state and county lands with their recreational facilities.
Public Recreation Information Maps (PRIM) are available for purchase from the DNR gift shop, DNR regional offices, Minnesota state parks and major sporting and map stores.

Check it out - you'll be glad you did.

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Department of Natural Resources





SCENIC STATE PARK

Duluth

Minneapolis/
St. Paul

SCENIC STATE PARK

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Scenic State Park
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Bigfork, MN 56628
218-743-3362

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Department of Natural Resources
Information Center
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040

(651) 296-6157 (Metro Area)
1-888-646-6367 (MN Toll Free)

TDD (Telecommunications
Device for Deaf)
(651) 296-5484 (Metro Area)
1-800-657-3929 (MN Toll Free)

DNR Web Site: www.dnr.state.mn.us

SCENIC STATE PARK is located in Itasca County, seven miles east of Bigfork, Minnesota, on County Road #7. Highway map index: I-7.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Scenic State Park protects the entire virgin-pine shorelands of Coon and Sandwick Lakes, plus parts of Lake of the Isles, Tell, Cedar, and Pine Lakes. Coon and Sandwick Lakes provide park visitors with excellent opportunities to fish, swim, and boat. The park contains several magnificent stands of old white and red pine that visitors enjoy walking through.

WILDLIFE: Thirty-nine species of animals inhabit Scenic State Park—bald eagles, ospreys, loons, jays, pileated woodpeckers, and songbirds, among others. Along the lakes, marshes, and streams you may come across frogs, toads, or even snakes among the fourteen species of amphibians and reptiles that live in the park.

GEOLOGY: Imagine a sheet of ice hundreds of feet high slowly creeping and gouging the earth. Then, as the climate changes, the glacier begins to melt. As it retreats, it leaves behind depressions, ridges, and deposits of soil that are today’s rolling hills.

In Scenic, you can walk along Chase Point, believed to be an old esker—a long ridge formed by a river tunnel within a glacier. Coon and Sandwick Lakes are water-filled depressions left over from old Glacial Lake Agassiz. Imagine a lake covering an area from the Minnesota-North Dakota-Canada border down into the Bigfork area. That was the lake that remained after the glacier melted.

HISTORY: The Ojibway used this area as part of their hunting grounds, but there is little evidence of heavy Indian use.

Logging around Scenic State Park started in the late nineteenth century. Logging companies began clearing the forest and hauling logs down the Bigfork River for the spring logging drive to the Rainy River. The life of loggers was hard and difficult. They began early in the morning and usually worked late into the evening.

As land was cleared, homesteaders came in and attempted—unsuccessfully—to farm the area. Early residents of the Bigfork area organized a movement to preserve the birch and pines around Coon and Sandwick Lakes. Their efforts were rewarded when, in 1921, Minnesota passed a law creating a park commission establishing Scenic State Park.

INTERPRETIVE TRAILS: Signs along the Chase Point trail interpret forest trees. A commemorative plaque tells the story of the park’s first superintendant and his family’s donation of Zaiser Island. There is also a boardwalk in the park with signs along the way that illustrate and describe the plants and ecology of a bog.

SO EVERYONE CAN ENJOY THE PARK...

- The park belongs to all Minnesotans. Treat it with respect and consideration.
- Hunting in the park is prohibited.
- Pets must be kept on a leash not longer than six feet.



The map displays the layout of Scenic State Park, including Coon Lake and Sandwick Lake. It features a legend with icons for various facilities: Handicapped Accessible, Trailer Sanitation Station, Restrooms/Shower, Restroom, Boardwalk/Dock, Overlook, Information, Picnic Area, Parking, Fish Cleaning, Fishing Pier, Swimming, Lodge, Boat Ramp, Rental Log Cabin, Toilets, Water, and Electric Sites. The map shows a network of trails, with some sections marked as 'Loop Closed'. Numbered sites are indicated, with underlined numbers (e.g., 33e, 34e, 35e, 36e, 37e, 38e, 39e, 40e, 41e, 42e, 43e, 44e, 45e, 46e, 47e, 48e, 49e, 50e, 51e, 52e, 53e, 54e, 55e, 56e, 57e, 58e, 59e, 60e, 61e, 62e, 63e, 64e, 65e, 66e, 67e, 68e, 69e) denoting reservable sites. The map also shows the Firetower Trail, the Chase Point trail, and the Lodge Campground. A note states: 'Underlined site numbers are RESERVABLE'. Arrows indicate directions to the Lodge Campground, Picnic Ground, Beach, and Boat Landing.

- Motorized vehicles may not use park trails.
- Enjoy the animals, but do not approach or feed them.
- Leave rocks and plants where they are. They make up much of the park’s beauty. Do not collect them.
- Information on the use of sanitary facilities, boating, navigation, and water safety is available from park managers.
- Park only in designated parking areas.
- The park is closed from 10:00 P.M. until 8:00

A.M. except in campgrounds. Loud noises or other disturbances are prohibited after 10:00 P.M.

- Park permits are required for every vehicle. Purchase them at park headquarters. Daily or annual permits may be purchased at the park headquarters or the Information Center in St. Paul (see “FOR MORE INFORMATION” at left).

This information is available in alternative format upon request.

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DNR Maps